



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)
Hathaway) Before the Examiner
Serial No. 10/008,781) Woo, Julian W.
Filed November 13, 2001)
APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR) Group Art Unit
POSITIVE CLOSURE OF AN) 3731
INTERNAL TISSUE MEMBRANE)
OPENING)

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 43700

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 30, 2004, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and consideration of the accompanying remarks.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this transmittal

Amendments to the claims begin on page 3 of this transmittal.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this transmittal.

Additionally, please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but do not include any payment of issue fees that are or may become due.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
<u>July 28 2004</u> (Date of Deposit)
James B. Myers, Jr.
Name of Registered Representative
<u>James B. Myers Jr.</u> Signature
<u>July 28 2004</u> Date of Signature

Hathaway; USSN 10/008,781
RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION
7037-438.JBM.280158